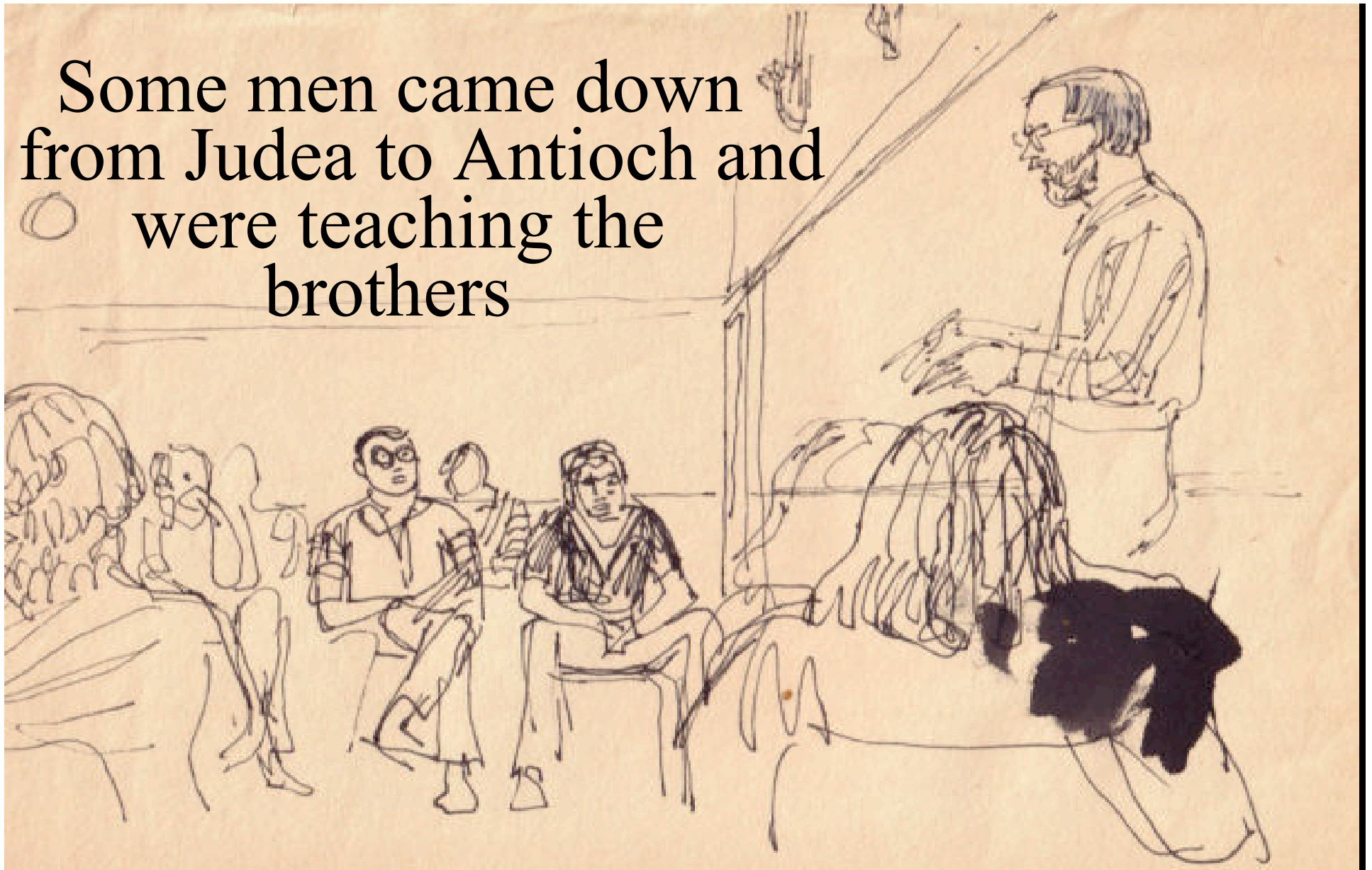


ACTS 15

Some men came down
from Judea to Antioch and
were teaching the
brothers



“unless you are circumcised, according to the
custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”

The
Adventures of
ELMO
IN
GROUCHLAND

The Good,
The Bad
and
The Stinky.



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This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostle and elders about this question.

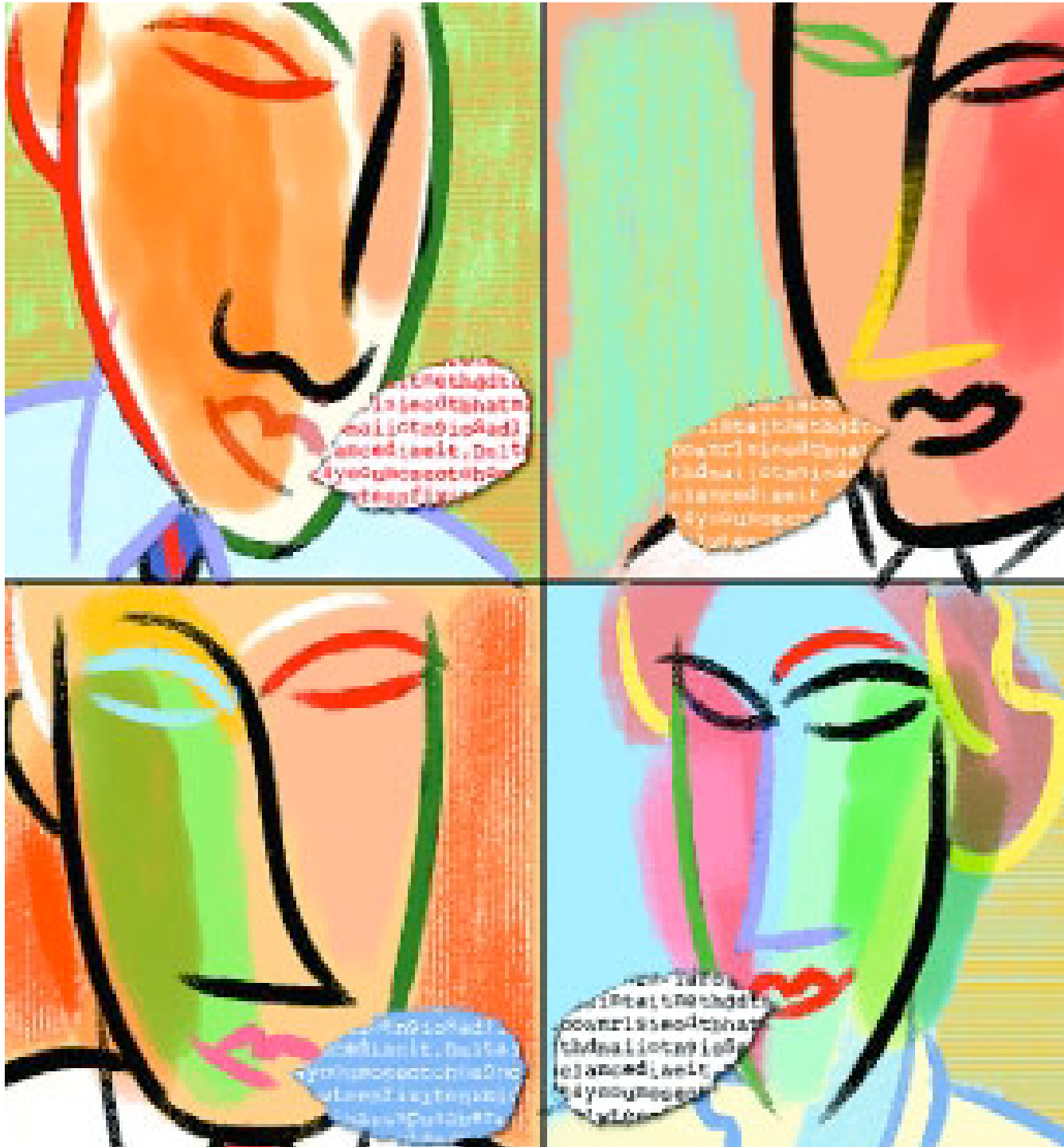


The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.



Then some of the
believers who
belonged to the party
of the Pharisees
stood up and said,
“The Gentiles must
be circumcised and
required to obey the
law of Moses.”





The apostles
and the
elders met to
consider this
Question.
After much
discussion,
Peter got up
and
addressed
them:

“God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? Now! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are

“God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? Now! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are

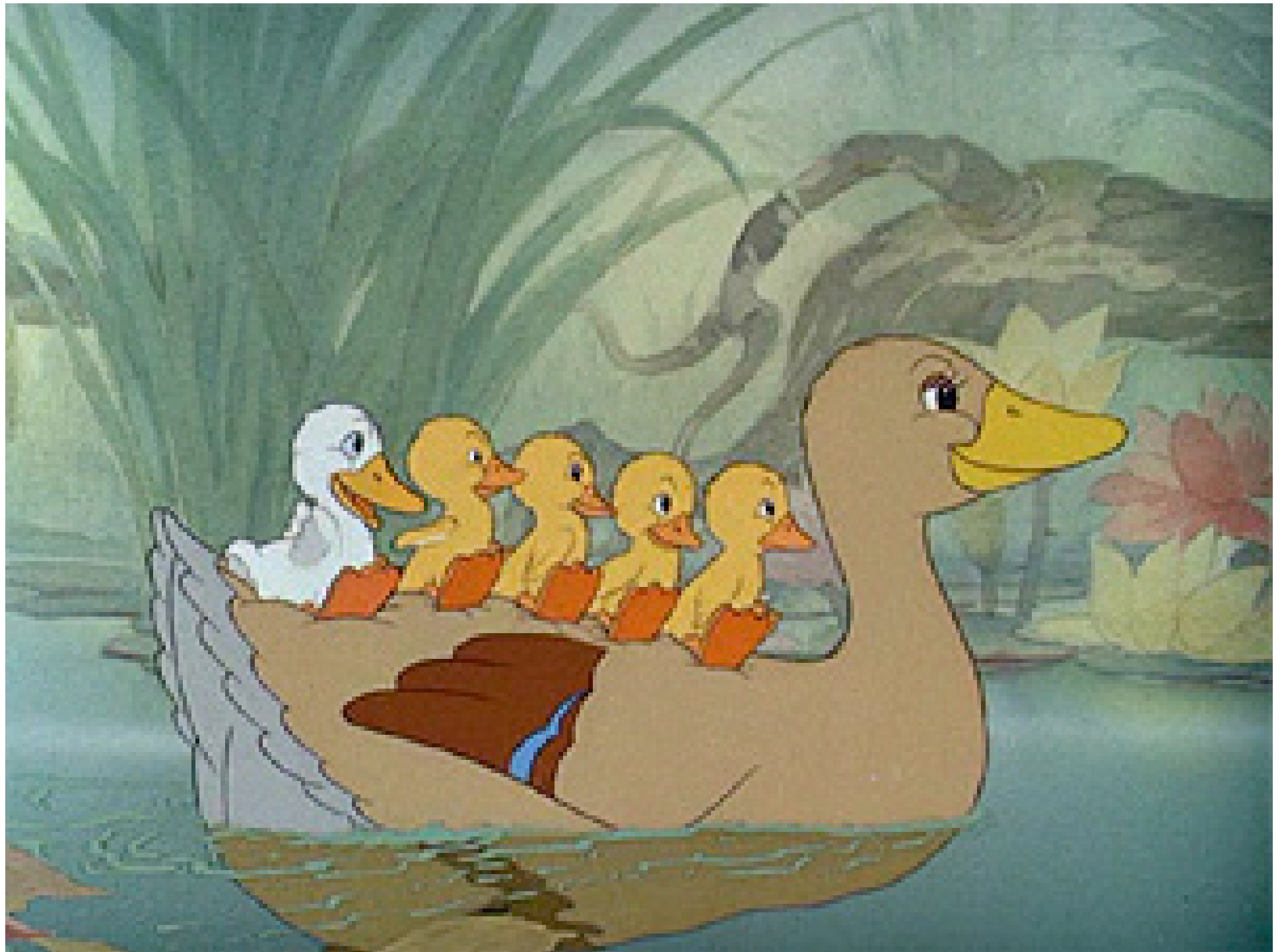
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What do they have to do
before we accept them?

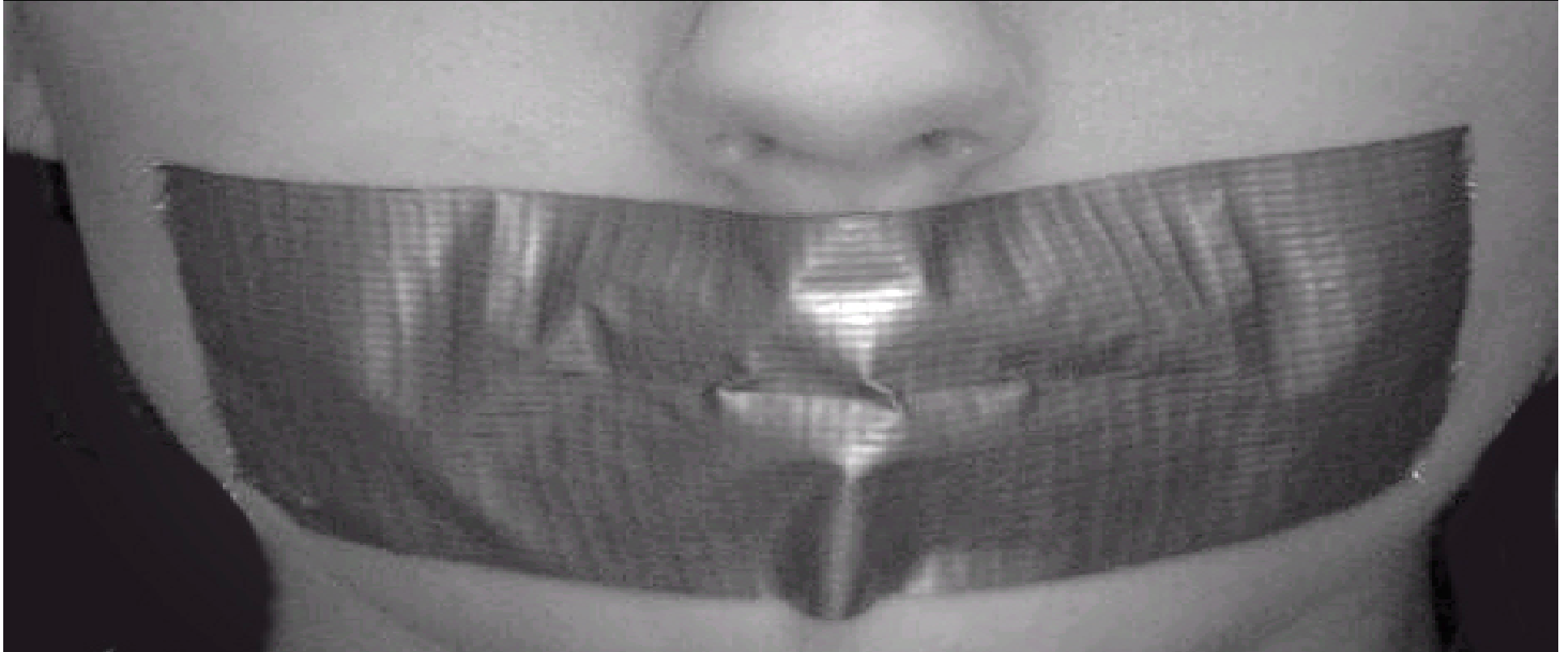
Nothing

The most wicked, perverted,
disdainful, arrogant, foul-
mouthed, hypocritical, jerk
of a person is accepted by
God.



ACTS 15

12The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.



13 When they finished, James spoke up:
"Brothers, listen to me. 14 Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself.



15 The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: 16" 'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,



17that the remnant
of men may seek the
Lord, and all the
Gentiles who bear
my name, says the
Lord, who does
these things' 18that
have been known for
ages.



19" It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

“God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. **Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?** Now! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are

The way we do church is not
the “way it has to be”
or the “only way”

Every church is influenced
by a culture and lives within
a culture.



1st Corinthians 9:20–22

20 To the Jews I became like a Jew,
to win the Jews. To those under the
law I became like one under the law
(though I myself am not under the
law), so as to win those under the
law.

21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

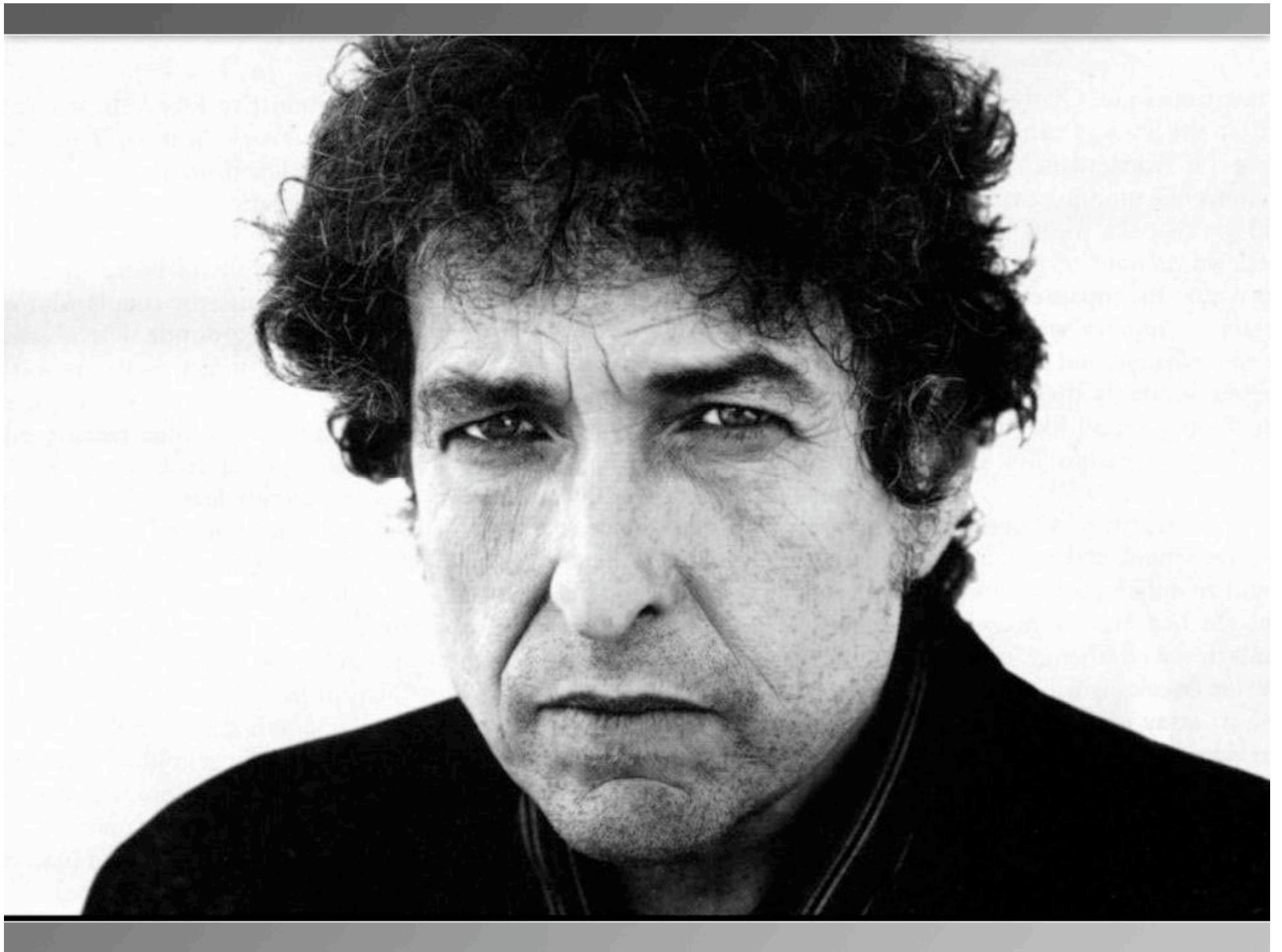
Sacrifice

giving up something
you love

For something you love
even more

It's okay to be different.





“There was a presence in
the room that couldn’t
have been anybody but
Jesus”



“Here's the thing with me and the religious thing. This is the flat-out truth: I find the religiosity and philosophy in the music. I don't find it anywhere else. Songs like "Let Me Rest on a Peaceful Mountain" or "I Saw the Light" that's my religion.



I don't adhere to rabbis,
preachers, evangelists, all of
that. I've learned more from
the songs than I've learned
from any of this kind of
entity. The songs are my
lexicon. I believe the songs."



The religious leaders tried to
make Bob Dylan something
he was not.

The yoke placed on him was
too heavy.







